



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICE

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April 9, 2008

To: Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: Richard Sanchez 
Interim Chief Information Officer

Subject: **STOLEN LAPTOP AND PRIVACY BREACH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
MENTAL HEALTH MEDICAL RECORDS**

On March 31, 2008, a County-owned laptop computer that was assigned to a Department of Mental Health (DMH) employee was stolen from the individual's automobile. Although the laptop had electronic health information records stored on the hard disk, the data was encrypted with the County's encryption software. However, other items were stolen including documents containing ten (10) clients' medical records and social security numbers.

DMH will be issuing notification letters to affected clients by Friday, April 11, 2008. These letters will apprise them of actions that the County has taken and what they can do to protect themselves. Moreover, DMH will work to evaluate and strengthen its policies and procedures relating to securing and storing County computer equipment and documents when they are away from the office.

Should you have questions on this matter, please call me at 213.974.2008 or via e-mail at rsanchez@cio.lacounty.gov. Alternatively, you may contact Robert Pittman, Acting Chief Information Security Officer, at 562.940.2724 or via e-mail at rpittman@cio.lacounty.gov.

RS:RP:ygd

c: William T Fujioka, CEO
Ellen F. Sandt, DCEO, Operations, CEO
Sheila Shima, DCEO, Health & Mental Health Services, CEO
Raymond G. Fortner, Jr., County Counsel
Marvin J. Southard, Director, Department of Mental Health
Robert Greenless, Chief Information Officer, Department of Mental Health
Linda McBride, Chief HIPAA Privacy Officer, Auditor-Controller
Board IT Deputies

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